

In Claim 1, lines 1-5, delete "absorbable".

In Claim 2, line 3, delete "absorbable".

In Claim 8, line 3, delete "absorbable".

In Claim 15, line 4, delete "absorbable".

Please cancel Claims 10-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new Claims 20-24.

-- 20. (New) The device according to Claim 1 further comprising an absorbable sponge pledget rolled from a sheet of sponge and positioned in the introducer.

21. (New) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the introducer includes a vent at a distal end to facilitate moving the pledget from the staging chamber to the delivery chamber by fluid pressure.

22. (New) The method for facilitating hemostasis of a puncture in the wall of a blood vessel according to Claim 15, wherein the sponge pledget is rolled from a sheet of absorbable sponge prior to loading into the introducer.